

FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

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ON THE COVER

On the morning of July 1, 1965, near Valensole, France, farmer Maurice Masse reportedly saw an egg-shaped "craft" resting in his lavender field. The "saucer" stood on six legs and had a back door, through which Masse could see two seats, back to back. Standing by the object were two small humanoids, who seemed startled by Masse's presence and instantly immobilized him. The object then vanished, and the farmer's temporary paralysis soon faded away.

It was about 5:45 a.m., and Maurice Masse was finishing a cigarette before commencing work in his field (named l'Olivol). He was standing near a hillock of pebbles and rakings by the end of a small vineyard alongside the field. Suddenly, he heard a whistling noise and glanced around the side of the hillock expecting to see a helicopter; instead, he saw a "machine" shaped like a rugby football, the size of a Dauphine car, standing on six legs connected by a central pivot. There were also, he said, "two boys of about eight years" near the object, bending down by a lavender plant.

Incensed, Masse approached stealthily through the vineyard and saw that the creatures were not boys at all; he broke cover and advanced toward them. When he was within 15 feet, one turned and pointed a pencil-like device at him. Masse was stopped in his tracks, unable to move.

According to Masse's testimony, the creatures were less than four feet tall, and were clad in close-fitting gray-green clothes, without any covering on their heads. They had "pumpkinlike" heads, high fleshy cheeks, large eyes which slanted away, mouths without lips, and very pointed chins. They made "grumbling" noises from their middles.

Masse will not disclose what else happened during the encounter, saying merely that they returned to their "machine." He said he could see them looking at him from inside, while the legs whirled and retracted. With a thump from the central pivot, the machine took off to float silently away. At 20 meters, it just disappeared, although traces of its passage in the direction of Manosque were reportedly found on lavender plants for 400 meters.

When he recovered mobility, so the story goes, a confused and frightened M. Masse rushed back to Valensole. There, the proprietor of the Café des Sports saw him and, alarmed by his appearance, questioned him. Masse blurted out part of his story; the proprietor could not contain himself, and the news quickly broke. Source: The files of Allan J. Manak.

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FLYING SAUCER DIGEST is published quarterly by the United Aerial Phenomena Agency (UAPA). Chairman/Editor is Allan J. Manak. Assistant Editor is Rick R. Hilberg. Managing Editor is Carol J. Hilberg. Art Director is Benita C. Owens. UAPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and related subjects. All correspondence and articles are welcomed, but must be accompanied by a SASE to be returned. Subscription rates are: 5 issues \$10.00, 10 issues \$19.00. All subscriptions outside the U.S.A. please add \$3.00 per year. UAPA, Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

UFO BITS AND PIECES

by Allan J. Manak

AREA 51 LAND GRAB: The Interior Department has given the U. S. Air Force control of 4,000 acres of public land which borders the Air Force facility referred to as Area 51, near Rachel, Nevada.

For many years people have claimed that the top secret Area 51, also known as Dreamland, is the U. S. government's central location for the evaluation and adaptation of technology derived from extraterrestrial sources.

Other intriguing rumors about Dreamland suggest that the base is used to store and study captured Soviet war planes, or that super secret aircraft are being tested and developed there.

Whatever is going on out there, the Air Force now has a lot more land to work with. Source: Fate Magazine, Issue No. 555, June 1996.

DO UNICORNS EXIST?: Unicorns are often believed to be imaginary animals, and many printed authorities tend to evade - or even out-right deny - the proof of their existence. A few pursue a more positive approach. America's Standard Edition of Amies' Universal Encyclopedia says the Unicorn is: "An animal with one horn." According to an examination of the accounts given of the Unicorn in ancient and modern times, the opinion of its fabulous character, which has prevailed since the time of Buffon, does not seem to rest on a foundation absolutely certain.

Check the evidence inside - then judge for yourself. You can get any Einhorn book in print by simply sending the title and a check or money order to: The Einhorn Press, P. O. Box 3376, Newport, DE 19804. This book costs \$15.00 and includes shipping.

RETROSPECTIVE ON 1955 FLORIDA INCIDENT: Tampa, Florida, Nov. 1955 - The following account appeared on the Ft. Lauderdale Sunday News, April 1st: "Last November something flashed out of the sky, gouged a hole the size of a boxcar in a pasture and started a fire that burned 40 days. No one knows to this day what caused the hole in the land of W. R. Wacaser in the little Alafia section of east Hillsborough County. For a time Air Force officials thought it might have been caused by a faulty guided missile from the Cocoa Proving Ground. Officers from MacDill A.F.B. checked the area with a Geiger counter but reported no trace of radioactivity. These officers told Mrs. Wacaser the hole was probably caused by lightning. They could not explain why the fire burned so long. And no one in the area remembers any big bolt of lightning at that time. 'We don't know what caused the hole but it sure was hot around the area', Mrs. Wacaser said. The grass around the area was burned, several trees were toppled and many others were burned on the sides nearest the hole. Vegetation has begun to grow there again but the burned trees have died. The area around the hole is very soft now, but elsewhere in that section the ground is hard." Source: C.R.I.F.O. ORBIT Vol. 3 No. 2.

SEND YOUR NAME INTO SPACE: Volunteer members of the Planetary Society in Pasadena, CA, are planning to send the digitized signatures of hundreds of thousands of people into space aboard the Cassini spacecraft bound for saturn in 1997. The data will be loaded onto a CD-ROM or other digital media, and then mounted onto the Cassini spacecraft during its final assembly at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. To participate, signatures should be sent on a plain postcard to: Suzanne Barber, MS 264-441, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109.

Source: Astronomy, July 1996.

SHOOTING STARS ON MARS: IF you were standing on the surface of Mars at night, you would see shooting stars just like on Earth. A team of astronomers

working in Britain and the United States has shown that even though Mars' atmosphere is much thinner than Earth's, it is still dense enough at high altitudes to cause incoming dust particles to burn up. Measurements of their location in the night sky would help astronomers understand the sources of dust distribution in the solar system. With a number of Mars missions due to take place in the next few years, martian meteor watching with automatic cameras could be a real possibility. Source: Astronomy, July 1996.

WEIRDOLOGY REPRINT SETS: Our subscribers have been asking for this since 1992. Here is your chance to have this special newsletter, featuring: Earth mysteries, Bigfoot, ice and unusual falls, the 1988 Perry Nuclear Plant UFOs, Nessie and much more. Set No. 1, issues No. 1 - 4 = \$5.00. Set No. 2, issues No. 5 - 8 = \$5.00. Set No. 3, issues No. 9 - 12 = \$5.00. Set No. 4, issues No. 13 - 16 = \$5.00. Set No. 5, issues No. 17 - 20 = \$5.00. Set No. 6, issues No. 21 - 23 = \$4.00. Special offer all 23 issues only \$24.00. Postage is free. UAPA Box 347032-W, Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

COLLECTORS CORNER: The following magazines are one of a kind, unless otherwise specified. These magazines are extremely rare. Each magazine will be mailed in plastic sheets for extra protection with the collector in mind. The price includes shipping. (First come, first served, only!) UFO Flying Saucers: comic book, very rare, No. 5 Feb. 1975, great art work, \$5.00. SAGA's UFO Report 84 pages Spring 1974, photos, illustrations, extremely rare - \$8.00. SAGA's UFO Report 84 pages Summer 1974, photos, illustrations, extremely rare - \$8.00, also Spring 1975 - \$8.00 and Fall 1975 - \$8.00. UFO Annual, 1983, 76 pages, photos and illustrations, rare \$6.00. Argosy UFO Annual, 1975, 100 pages, photos and illustrations, very rare - \$9.00. Beyond Reality magazine Sept/Oct 1974 - \$4.00. Probe the Unknown magazine Dec. 1973 - \$4.00, Fall 1974 - \$4.00, Winter 1974 - \$4.00, March 1975 - \$4.00. Classic paperback books - UFO's Past Present and Future - rare - \$5.99. Visitors From Space by Keel \$6.00. Temple of the Stars - \$5.00. Intercept But Don't Shoot - \$5.00. Fate Magazine specials: No. 122 May, 1960; No. 123 June 1960; No. 124 July 1960; No. 127 October 1960; No. 128 November 1960; No. 129 December 1960; \$4.00 each. Send to: UAPA - CC, Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134.

AROUND AND ABOUT THE SAUCER WORLD

by Rick R. Hilberg

NEW UFO AND FORTEAN BOOK

STRANGE ENCOUNTERS: UFOs, ALIENS & MONSTERS AMONG US by Curt Sutherly is the latest in Fate magazine's Fate Presents series. Sutherly, a former newspaper reporter and long time UFO and Fortean writer and researcher, takes the reader on a magical journey to the many dimensions of the unknown that seem to hover tauntingly close to what we choose to call "reality." In fact, it's the finest look at these weird realms since John Keel's series of books from the 1960s and 1970s. And it's obvious that Sutherly did a great amount of personal field investigation on the majority of incidents he reports on.

UFO topics range from the "invasion" of Bushkung Lake in Ontario, Canada during the winter of 1973-74, when scores of persons saw mysterious flying objects on an almost daily basis, to a sane and sober look at the MJ-12 and Rosewell mess.

The really fun part of the book is when Sutherly delves into the "Fortean" world, and where we get to meet such diverse beasties as: huge unknown birds, the creature we often call Bigfoot, mystery cats and even

The Great Galactic Ghoul!

I certainly hope that Curt has another such book or two up his sleeves, as this is one book you won't want to put down. Llewellyn Publications, St. Paul, MN. 1996. ISBN 1-56718-699-8. \$5.99, paperback.
1996 MUFON SYMPOSIUM

It was our pleasure to have attended the recent MUFON UFO Symposium held in Greensboro, North Carolina over the long July 4th weekend. And at the outset we have to say that the symposium venue at the Koury Convention Center was nothing short of a first class facility. And we also have to add that Greensboro is a most vibrant and beautiful city with much to offer. And a tip of the hat to the North Carolina symposium sponsors, headed by Host Chairperson George E. Lund III, for a well organized and interesting UFO event.

A list of speakers included the following UFO luminaries: Budd Hopkins, Philip Mantle, John Mack, Kevin Randle and Bruce Maccabee, to name just a few. The Mistress of Ceremonies, Ginger Richardson, deserves special kudos for her professional job in keeping things running on time.

Two presentations struck us as especially interesting, although all were quite informative and enjoyable in their own right.

Canadian researcher Chris Styles gave a presentation on the 1967 Shag Harbor "UFO Crash" that included a wealth of information that we were not aware of, which gave us a better understanding of this historical case. He is to be congratulated on his considerable personal investigation into this multiple witness high strangeness incident.

We were also impressed with Kevin Randle's look at popular culture and how it can affect how people perceive the UFO and abduction phenomena. Randle used video and slides to show that many of the elements of the UFO abduction scenario can be found in popular television shows, Science Fiction films and magazine articles and cover artwork going back as much as sixty years. Some of these basic elements include the "classic" UFO shape so often reported, beings that look very much like the currently reported "greys," implants and intrusive physical examinations.

What Randle presented seemed to strike home at many of those in attendance, as quite a few subsequent speakers were quite vocal in dismissing his well researched evidence that obviously could give some prosaic explanations to the whole "abduction movement." Hey Kevin, that's what happens when you tell people something they don't want to hear!

As usual, events such as this are the time to meet new people and see old friends, and gain a wider understanding of the whole UFO phenomenon. We plan on attending the 1997 Symposium to be held in Grand Rapids, MI July 11 - 13.

OHIOANS SEE "UFOs" AS BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE OPENS

Just as the smash hit movie "Independence Day" was having its premiere, a glowing red object was reported by scores of people in the Middletown and Carlisle areas on July 4th and 5th. Police confirmed that they received numerous calls from area residents.

Bode Gibbs reported he was summoned from his home by a neighbor on the evening of the 5th to look at the object, which he described as round, glowing red with red lights. Some thirty people from the neighborhood gathered to watch, and Gibbs said the object twice appeared to dump a "ball of burning liquid."

Denise McGough described the objects movement to the Middletown Journal.

"It went upward and to the right, then straight up and to the left, then back to the right," she said. "We watched it for about an hour."

Patrolman Mike Combs reported that he and other Middletown police officers watched the light for more than half an hour.

"It was as high as the stars," Combs said. "It was up there, definitely too high to be a plane."

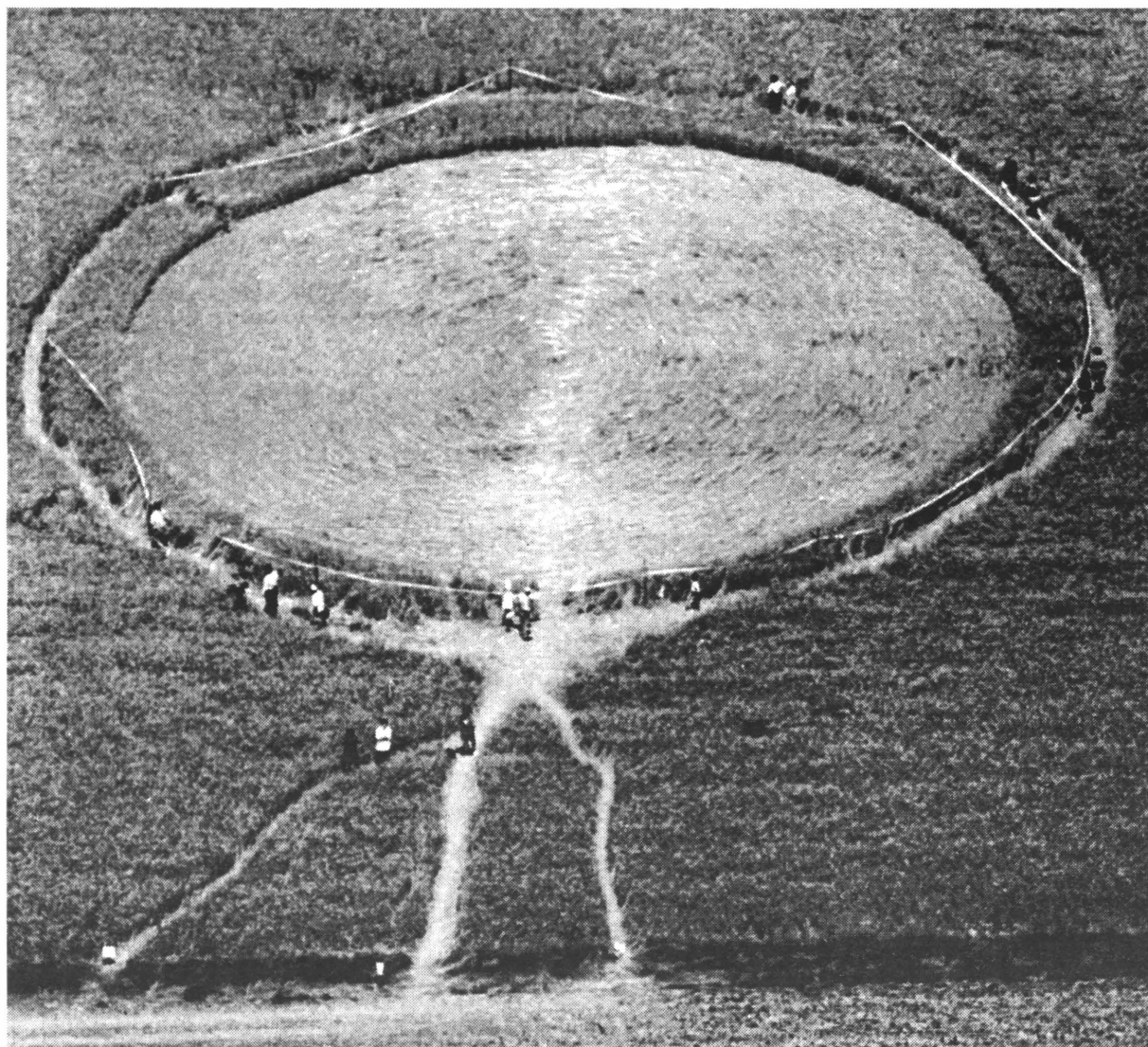
However, at about the same time Patrolman Combs made his sighting, pilot James Gwinn of Miami Valley Aviation was approaching the Middletown airport in a twin-engine Beechcraft. He spotted the "UFO" in the distance, and decided to take a closer look.

As Gwinn approached, the object seemed to have a metallic sheen. However, after he circled the object near enough to illuminate it with his landing lights, he realized what it was - four of five large balloons, perhaps even inflated garbage bags, to which someone had tied several flares.

One wonders if "Independence Day" might cause future UFO witnesses to describe huge alien ships; and future abductees to report capture by ugly, insectoid creatures. Could the "greys" be on the way out?

Source: The Cleveland Plain Dealer July 11, 1996. Joe Dirck, The Cleveland Plain Dealer, July 14, 1996.

OHIO CROP CIRCLE



The crop circle in the middle of a farmers's field was a hoax, Sheriff David Harrow of Paulding County said July 10th.

"It was a prank," Harrow said. "It is a man-made circle out there. There was no extraterrestrial landing."

A local pilot spotted the circle last week in a field farmed by Dan Arend and his two brothers. It measures 93 feet in diameter.

Hundreds of people have flocked to Arend's farm every day to gaze at the circle. They have been debating whether the circle was actually caused by a UFO.

Harrow said an Ohio State University agronomist could tell yesterday the circle was man-made.

"Someone went through an extreme amount of effort to do this. I really don't have an answer as to why anybody would do this," he said.

Crop circles have been found around the world. Some people claim supernatural forces make them, but doubters think they are more likely the work of pranksters.

The circle was found July 3. Pilot Mike Dobbela, his wife Sandy and two relatives spotted the circle during a plane ride. They told Arend, who contacted John Timmerman, a Lakeview resident who studies UFOs. Timmerman examined the circle, then called in the agronomist.

At first, Harrow said he didn't think the circle was the work of vandals. Neither did Timmerman.

"When I was out there Saturday, I didn't see any tracks leading in or out of the circle," Harrow said. Source: The Cleveland Plain Dealer July 11, 1996. Photo credit: Associated Press.

UFOs REPORTED IN ALBANY, OREGON

John and Marjorie Friedrichsen know it's a crazy story. But on the other hand, they say, they still don't know what the bright lights they saw February 13th actually were.

The couple were out walking their dog at about 10:30 that night near their home at 432 Calapooia st. when they first noticed the lights in the eastern sky above Lebanon.

"I saw this v-shaped contraption, perfectly still, motionless, Marjorie said. "It was mostly white and blue, with a little red and green towards the ends."

The Friedrichsens counted at least 17 of the strange sights. One especially bright one was more northeast than the others.

"The major portion made a large circle," John said.

"Every one of them was an identical shape, like a wide-open V," Marjorie said.

The two called the police and the Democrat-Herald to see if any other sightings had been reported. None had, but when John contacted a retired Air Force friend, he said he's seen strange lights as well.

In the morning, when Marjorie went outside at 5 a.m. to get the paper, the lights were still there. Fog obscured them shortly afterward, however.

John says he knows many such sightings are dismissed as weather balloons. "But to have so many up in the middle of the night?" he asked.

A former pilot, John said he knows what other aircraft look like in the sky at night and this didn't match any of them. "The closest thing it could have been was a chopper, but choppers don't sit still in the same place for six hours," he said.

A similar sighting was reported February 16th when two people told Linn County sheriff's deputies they saw what they thought was an airplane crash near Highway 99E and Highway 34 in Tangent.

The "crash" was reported about 1 a.m. No plane was found in the area. Air control tower staff at the Salem airport said they had seen what looked like a meteor about the same time. Several Lebanon police officers reported seeing the same thing. Source: Jennifer Moody, Albany, Oregon Democrat-Herald February 16, 1996.

"BALL OF RAINBOW" SPOTTED IN WASHINGTON STATE

Several people saw something unusual hovering in the skies over the Spokane Valley between 8 and 9 p.m. March 28th. One family captured it on videotape.

Tessa Whipkey, 13, said she had the closest encounter of them all.

Tessa and her 11-year-old brother, John, climbed onto the roof of the family's garage near 12th and McDonald in the Valley for a closer look. Their grandmother had called moments earlier to say she saw a ball of light in the sky.

"It looked like a ball of rainbow, just spinning out everywhere," Tessa said. John ran inside for a camera.

The Evergreen Junior High student swears the object raced toward her, stopping 30 feet above her. She ran screaming into the house.

Sound like a crazy kid story? Maybe. But when Tessa tells it, her blue eyes turn red and watery, she shakes and chokes on the words.

The phone call that provoked Tessa's nighttime adventure was one in a string that started with a Valley couple living on Libery Avenue near Park Road.

Julie and Randy Stone were just getting into bed at about 8 p.m. when they noticed what looked like a giant white star outside.

It had a ring of rainbow-colored lights at the bottom. With binoculars, Julie Stone said she could see that the glowing globe was spinning.

Stone said what she saw wasn't Comet Hyakutake.

"I know what (the comet) looks like. That wasn't the comet," she said.

Stone then called neighbor Lea Rosales, who is Tessa's grandmother.

"I'm not an alien chaser or anything, but I saw something," Rosales said. "If the moon were a basketball, it would have been a baseball."

Rosales thought maybe it was a weather balloon or plane, because she lives near Felts Field.

Norman MacDonald, who works at the private field's front desk, said he hadn't heard about anything strange that night.

MacDonald and Douglas Klaue, a Felts Field pilot, said weather balloons don't have colored lights. The men think it may have been a hovering helicopter.

"Other than that, I can only say it was a high-cost secret government project," MacDonald said, chuckling. He said he would keep an eye out for green or scaly pilots.

One retired Air Force lieutenant colonel wasn't kidding around, though. Jerry Rolwes is the assistant Washington state director of the Mutual UFO Network, a national organization that investigates sightings.

He said he would like to see the videotape, made Thursday night by Karen Hazlett, who lives on Bowdish Road near Sprague.

Hazlett swears the object got bigger in the sky, as if it was coming toward her, and alter retreated.

The tape shows a round, shimmery silver object twinkling in the night, with Hazlett's 11-year-old daughter, Tara, yelling "Mom. it's spinning!"

And 13-year-old Tessa?

"I know it was real," she said, her voice losing its waver and catching conviction. "And it scared me." Source: Ward Sanderson, Spokane, Washington Spokesman-Review, March 30, 1996.